

Recorded in September 1974 by Ralph Siddoway of the Uintah County Golden Age Center History Discussion Group

Mike Brown of the Golden Age Center re-recorded the original tape on October 25, 1978. The transcriptionist encountered many unintelligible words.

The comments of speakers who could not be identified are placed in brackets.

Introduction: He'll give us a good discussion today because he always does things wholehearted, and we'll turn the time over to him now.

Bry Stringham (Bry): I'm real complimented that there's so many people here because I understood there wouldn't be many here because it's cold and they've heard me twice this year anyway, and so I didn't expect a crowd. It's good that everyone is here.

I want to compliment Mr. ? here, because he's asking me all the time, "How about it? Are you getting ready? Can we get this thing done?" And I'd say to him, "Yes, I'm going to, right away." Anyhow, this short talk I'm going to give, and it's going to be short, winning your good will by saying that, is divided into three parts. First, I'm going to talk about me, and that's important. Then I'm going to talk about you, and then I'm going to talk about the '70s, 1870s, and then the 1970s. She told me "Stay within the 70s." Then I'm going to take you on an airplane ride, and we're going to have a real good time. Is there anybody here who hasn't flown in an airplane? Have you flown in an airplane? You haven't? Well, you're going to have a new experience. How are you? You're as old as I am. I hate to hand them back to anybody. Well anyhow, I'm talking about me, first. I'm the oldest one here, right? Nobody dares to challenge that. ?, how old are you?

[There's a man over here who's older'n you.]

Bry: I thought they'd come through. Anyhow, I'm eighty-six years old and in my second childhood, and I'm crammin' for the finals. I'm going just as fast as I can, with my wife, and I can see the take-off not very far, and I am in a hurry. So I'm not going to take too much time here. You know, when you talk about people in trouble, we say, "Oh, I'm in a heck of a mess." We think we are, but is there anybody here that's hungry? Anyone here that's hungry at all, anybody that doesn't have good clothes on? Warm clothes? Anybody that hasn't got lipstick? Talk about being in grand shape. What a wonderful shape we are in as a people. I hope we get settled down and say, "Hey, where you been?" Now that'll be enough. Will you lock the door please?

Well, anyhow, you know, where's your wife, Ralph? You know, you ladies really add to these decorations. I like this especially on your face. I know what you mean to these men, and I know how meticulously efficient you are. But not quite as efficient as Ralph's wife. Ralph's wife insists on making the bed the first thing and so does my wife. But anyhow, Ralph got up and went to the bathroom, and when he got back the bed was made and he had to go to the sheep camp.

You know, women are great people. We men all know that, and I want to raise just a little token for these women, and ? for men too. Anyhow, and old Hindu legend described the creation

of women. The only God created the world and put everything in its place. The earth, the sea, the moon, and the stars, and the sun, and the clouds. Above them he put the immense cupola of the sky. Then God created the first man. But when he went about creating the first woman, he found that he had used up all his material. And he sat down and pondered. He took the soft curve of the moon, the graceful lines of the creeping plant, the gracefulness of the deer, the suppleness of the iridescent snake, the slenderness of the white willow by the water, the emerald luster of the blades of grass glistening in the meadows. He took the playful lightness of the feather and the serene gaiety of the sunbeam, the fickleness of the wind, and the pure tears of the clouds, the soft velvet of the multi-colored blossoms. Look at the hind, the tiresomeness of the proud hare, the vanity of the proud peacock. The cooing of the turtledove. And the talkativeness of the parrot. Finally, he took the cold of the snow, the heat of the burning womb of the mountains, the hardness of the diamond and the cruelty of the jungle tiger. He measured them judiciously and mixed them all in this ingredient. From this mixture God modeled the first woman and was satisfied with his work.

Now, that's for you women. Now, you men think you're great guys, I know you do, and you are, but in back of every man, of course, is a good woman. You know that as well as I know it, all you men. But, you know, my lad, – the dad was telling his son... He had went on for hours, telling what he had done all through his life. And the little boy, when he had got down on his knees to pray that night, he said, "Please God, make Daddy the man he thinks he is."

And that's the way... But anyhow, first I want to talk about these two books, right here. This one right here, put out by the Camp of Buenavista. I hope you'll buy one of those. You can go down to the post office, they're a dollar and a half, and here's the most wonderful book I think I ever held in my hand. Right there. I don't think anything's quite like it. Not anything I ever saw. This is the *Builders of Uintah*. How many have one of 'em? How many would like one?

[I'd like a half a dozen more.]

Bry: That makes seven. All right, well anyhow, it's a marvelous book. I don't know how these ladies did this. That they could compile this as well as this is compiled, with pictures and everything. And there they are, the three ladies that did it. They are Jenny Weeks, Katie Horrocks, and Merle Oaks. It's just fabulous.

Well, I want to talk about this country. Now, Escalante came here when? '76, didn't he Charles? He landed down at the Green River, right at the Jensen area, and couldn't get across, so his guide said, "go up, go up, go up." So he went up near where they drew the dinosaur, and there they found a gravel bar, and of course, the Indians knew all about it. The first night they held a celebration rodeo, and one of the boys got bucked off and held up the party for two or three days while he got over his injuries.

You know, Uinta Basin, here in the Vernal area, was the first part of Utah saw by a white man. It was the last part colonized by white men. This valley. When Escalante came across the river, through the adobe and looked out over the valley, what do you think he saw? Mass sagebrush. Desert area. Except about a trickle of a creek running down through the center of it. Sparkling water, beautiful fish, berries of all kinds, we knew that, didn't we? Is that right? Down on the other end, it had pretty strong alkali. But it was exploited by man, and we're doing that with a lot of our natural resources.

I'll try and stay with this. Well, anyhow, another thing that slowed this down, was this thing here. Slowed down the colonization of the valley, was this, right here. Here's the Indian

Reservation, runs over here to about Currant Creek, is that right? About Currant Creek is the line of the Ute- Uintah Reservation, the Indian reservation. These people had to cross clear across this, Indian danger all the way, and get up in here to Vernal. That's one reason that held it up. But the main reason that held it up was that Brigham Young sent scouts all over, you know, to scout out places for people to colonize, and the three men that came out here in this area, just across from this dangerous area here, from the Indians, went back and told Brigham, "The only thing that's good for is to hold the world together." They didn't know what they were saying. They were telling the truth. Just as sure as you are and I'll prove that before I go. So here you are in Vernal, Utah, this is the forest and this is the badlands, and this is Robert's area.

[Not any more. That's yours, too.]

Bry: Over this many, many years. And the first man that came out and made a survey of this area, a range survey, he's sitting by that pretty woman right there. He's the guy and he's one of us. I'm awful proud to have him here, a great man. How many years did I work with you? Thirty. How many were there?

[Well, you were governor of the advisory board, I think, for about thirty years, weren't you?]

Bry: Yeah. Close to, off and on.

[I was with the Bureau about thirty-eight years.]

Bry: Thirty-eight years. Can you see, some of you can see that, the blues there, can you? We're going to take too long here, I know. Can you see the blue from where you are, Lottie? Well, that all belongs to you, to the state of Utah. And all the mineral rights are in that area, except that that was bought up. No, this isn't bought up. Well, let's move. When I was in the legislature—I told you I was going to talk about me—they had one man, went from financial commission, handling this whole area, I mean, the whole state. The whole state is covered like that. The biggest landlord in the United States is the State of Utah. It runs the state's land. Well, I had a law passed whereby we appointed a special state board, with a representative from each part of the state. Some great guys.

All right, let's go fast. In 1865 a treaty was made with the Indians, and they moved all the Indians out of Provo, they said "This is a great place, this Provo-Salt Lake area, so you move over here in this desolate area that's drained by Duchesne, Rock Creek, and Uinta. You can have that area."

So the Indians were told by Brigham Young, "If you go over to that area, on these drainages," why they didn't put 'em on the line here I don't know, instead of starting there and coming this way, and put this right in the middle, "If you go over there we'll pay you a dollar and a quarter a day," but he never paid 'em. They weren't paid until Ernie Wilkinson back about 1935 took it to court and got their money, \$30 million. And he kept three million of it, which is all right, it's the law, you keep ten percent. You know Ernie Wilkinson, from BYU.

All right, that's all we'll need to use the map for. Let's hurry on. So, the Indians came over and they got their dollar and a quarter per acre, for any they could find. Well, we'll just have to go hurriedly on about the history. I spent some time looking up the dates, and Pardon Dodds, of course, was an agent over at Whiterocks, the Indian agent, in 1866. He counted 4,500 Indians

in the area then. How many are there now, Charlie? How many Indians? Does anybody know roughly how many Indians there are?

[1600.]

Bry: 1600. That's about right. Well, there was four thousand in that one area then, 4,500. See there's no over- population there at present. Pardon Dodds was a great guy, we all know. Of course, we know his history, he was one of the people, a Civil War veteran, and he built the first cabin out here on the creek. I drove out there this morning to look over the area, and it's interesting to go over to that old post office. He was the first one to build a cabin, and he was a great Indian scout. He was a great fellow to send out to get the horses back that the Indians stole, he was brave, and he had a great knack of meeting with the Indians, and when he had to be rough he was rough.

The Snyders came here in 1876. He came and brought his family, then he went back and got his cattle. He brought with him a young girl by the name of Clara Crouch. Mrs. Snyder had a small baby, and Clara was a girl. Clara Crouch later married Westover and a child was born. No doctors, a thousand miles away from any family, she died, of course, of childbirth. My mother and father heard about it, and how they ever heard I'll never know, two hundred miles from nowhere, but they got word of it.

My father was working then on Antelope Island. My grandfather was in charge of cattle, animals and lands, livestock and lands for the church. Father worked with him on Antelope Island. There was a thousand horses there at one time. He hooked up four of those horses, wild as they were, and went off to get the baby. They were two weeks coming, and he had two babies himself, Clare Hacking, and Grace Colton – Don B. Colton – babies. It took him two weeks to get here, and in the meantime an Indian nursed the baby, Clair Westover – that was his name, and when they got here, of course, my mother had a young baby, and took the two of 'em on her breast and raised both of 'em, Don and Grace and Clair also.

Well, let's pass on quickly to William Gibson; he was the next great character out here. In 1877 he said there were only thirty men and six families at that time, when he came. You know, he was quite a character. He was seventy-nine when he came, but he was quite a character. You know he dug his own grave up there, did you know that? And cemented it, and then slept in it one night. He said it was fine, and he made his three grandsons promise—these were ?? and the other taught in the University of Utah— “Do you promise me faithfully you will never move me? I want to be here on the morning of the resurrection.” And they said, “Yes, that's right, we'll see that that's never done.”

Well, they didn't keep their word. Because when they built Steinaker, it was on the right wing, and he had to be moved from his spot, and several others that were in that cemetery. It was a hard thing to do after he was so concerned about where he was buried. You've all heard this. He was quite a humorist. He said, “Here goes Bill up on the Hill.” And he went up high there, at the place of his selection. “I bid you all a kind adieu until the morning of the Resurrection.” But they didn't wait that long.

Another thing, he was quite an imbibor. He liked to go down to the saloon at night, and his wife said, “I'll correct that if it's the last thing I do.” So, he had to go through a bunch of lilacs to go in, in the morning, to go into the house, so she got a sheet and put it over her head, and when she heard him coming, she hid behind the lilacs, and jumped out at him, and he said, “Who's there?” And she said, “It's the devil.” He said, “Good, I thought it was my wife.”

When they built the post office, my wife went out and looked at it; it was a little while ago. Is that the post office, here, or was that the post office? Hum, let's see. Yes, that is the post office. A brick building. It's there, with a beautiful black fence around it, and it's quite an ?. You know what they had to do to build that? They had a broad-ax, and a hammer, and pegs, and some square nails. And there was three hundred people here at that time without a post office. And, how they got their mail nobody ever knows, but anyhow they carried it by pony and by snowshoes, over around by Rock Springs and Green River.

[Roy: My Dad and John Glines had the first contract to bring the mail from Green River Wyoming. And they brought it over Diamond Mountain, and down through where the sawmill is over there, and they called that Mail Draw.]

Bry: Yes, Mail Draw. Right. Any time you want to interrupt me, please do it, because, there's lots of things I didn't have time to look up, or didn't take time to look up. So, that's very interesting. Thanks, Roy. Appreciate that. Well, we'll go on fast, because we've quite a lot. In 1878, on the bench, we call it the "bench" here, that's where Jeremiah Hatch located, and started in this area. And you know all about that because Ashley Bartlett told you about it last time, I'm told, so I won't spend any time. And this is when, in 1878 is when the settlement of Maeser and Dry Fork and Vernal had moved into that area, then. You know there were five young people who came in out of one family. They all came together, just young people, without their father and mother, in 1878. Do you know who they were? Nelson Merkley, George D. Merkley, Sadie Merkley, who later became Mrs. W. P. Coltharp, and Maria, who later became Mrs. ?, and Chris Merkley. All those children came in a group, just young folks, and settled here in this state, when the reservation was opened, and Chris moved on to the reservation. They had to go into the mountains to get timber to build their homes, and the first strip they laid, they were mixing up the cornmeal, that's all they had to eat, and Chris said, "Lad, don't mix any of that there stuff for me," but after they had worked in the timber mills for a while, he ate his part of the cornmeal.

Well, in 1878, the first July Fourth celebration. There were only five women present. Now I'm coming a little to my own family, if I might for just a minute. The first school was in 1878, but before that Robert Bodily, Philip Stringham, and Billy Bradshaw took out the second canal out of Ashley Creek, you know who they had for their surveyor? Nature. They started here, and let that water run, and that's where they'd go. And what did they have? Just picks and shovels. The horses were so poor that they couldn't use horses.

All right. Next is Fort Thornburgh. And here, I want to show you this, Fort Thornburgh. There's a spring up there, you see the Stringham mines, you see Joseph Hacking ranch. You know where I'm talking about, up that canyon where Fort Thornburgh was located. And Theron Hacking, three or four years ago, tried to liven that spring up and he was digging down in there and he found a whole bunch of these. What do you think was in those, Allen?

[Got some four percent.]

Bry: Well, anyhow, they found a bunch of old boots in there as well, Army boots, and our ranch was right there, the Stringham Ranch, 160 acres. And Dodds was the Indian Agent, and he rode up to Father one day at his house, and he said, "Stringham, you've got to move, you're on the Reservation." Father went in, I want to pass this around, he brought this out and showed this to Brother Dodds, who was the Indian Agent. Pass this around and let them look at it, will you? All

that it is is a deed, but I wanted you to see one of the old deeds. All right. Don't forget those young people, I think that's part of history, don't you?

One little story that I remember, a child's mother told, and his father was on the mountain getting logs one night, she was there with this little brood, and she had twelve children. An eagle came along in the night, and peeked through the window at her. It was horrifying and she was telling us about that. See what they had to put up with? No one around, from miles away, the mother there, the brood of children, you people haven't got it too tough. You know, one of my friends, said, "Yes, I've had more trouble than anybody on earth." "Why," I said, "You haven't any trouble, compared to me. I married a young woman. Good heavens. Talk about trouble."

All right, now, you know, they had some fun in those days, too, because this man, Chell Hall and Ray Hadlock, had a little money, and they were going to get some food. Two teams were hooked up, two horse teams, so they went to get some flour and some food. But you know what happened? They borrowed that money from these people. Hadlock's money was money that he'd got from his son who was killed in the Civil War. And he'd loaned it to these people who had repaid part of it. And you know how they signed that one note? This Hadlock had a new Peter's ? wagon. You remember them?

[Yes]

Bry: So they went out and raised this tongue up high and said, "Know all men by these things, this man will pay this hundred dollars back, or the wagon is mine." And the contract was signed. That was an old contract, you know.

Now the next thing is the Meeker Massacre, and it's a horrible story, I've been reading it. If you want to read it thoroughly there's a book, called *The Meeker Massacre*, put out by Pratt. It's in the library. But anyhow, Meeker was a great character. He was a scholar, he was a fine gentleman, and a very persuasive personality, kind and so on. He tried to be kind to these Uncompahgres and the Utes, both were there, in that particular area. He finally found out he had to be more harsh in handling them. But he got a little too harsh and they got against him. He plowed up their pony pasture and did several other things. Then all at once one day here come a group of 'em with rifles, and they lowered nine of 'em right around his cabin, and they shot Meeker in the head.

Now there's a lot of stories about Meeker being nailed down with pegs; this book says he was shot right through the head. Killed quickly. They took the women, and they took Mrs. Meeker, and put her on a horse, and the chief jumped on in ahead of her. Boyd ? relates, they took the girls, one of the girls had a saddle, they took 'em for twenty-three days. They defiled 'em, it was a horrible experience. Imagine going through that. For twenty-three days.

Now, they didn't kill any of 'em, but they did say, they sent three of the young Utes to come over here to Whiterocks and try to get the Uintahs there to join and annihilate and run everybody out of Ashley Valley. But, Tabby gave it away and told Jeremiah Hatch what the plan was, and Tabby advised 'em to fort up, so they did fort up here, right where we are. Twelve houses, ? forts were, one at old Ashley and one at Jensen. Most all of the people moved in. Some of 'em moved their houses in, a good many of 'em, a few didn't. Colton was one that didn't come in; you'd have to be pretty brave to stay out with the Indians threatening all the time. On top of that, it was the hard winter; you know all about that, because that winter they had run out of food, and they couldn't get over the mountain, and they couldn't get their mail, and it was a

terrible experience.

[end of side one]

[Side two]

Bry: Because this hard winter, this terrible experience, you've got the Indians coming in, there was much suffering for all of 'em. But, the thing you're enjoying now, in this area, is what they created for you. I hope we all appreciate it. I think we do.

Now, you know, we ought to take this airplane right now, now we've seen what this condition was a hundred years ago, in the '70s, now we must take the airplane. Now, those that are too heavy, I wish you wouldn't go, because we're not able to carry too much, but anyhow, we're going to start out on this airplane right now, everyone get in. Come on, Buddy, here he is, the last, get in, right in that door there. Can you visualize it? You've got to visualize now, you're on the plane. Right, we'll go and start out from the airport. We're not going to wait until they build a new airport. All right. Here we go; up we go. Oh, there's a view! Oh, look at that mountain right up there. That's Little Mountain. I'm related to that.

Now, I want you to use your mind to see how many things I'm going to tell you about. It's the greatest country on earth. I know, because I've been around the earth and I've inquired every place I go, "Is there any area like this area?" S, underlaid under this Little Mountain right there, is— do you see it down there? Do you see it down there? Can you see it?

[Yes.]

Bry: You're a good visualizer. That mountain's all underlaid with coal. Just eight miles of it, ten. I've been there many times. Then we fly on down a little farther, and here's Bingham Hill, underlaid with asphalt, for thirteen miles. That strip of asphalt runs down. How's the thickest part of it, Charlie?

[It's bottomless.]

Bry: It's bottomless.

[They're digging on it right now; they haven't got to the bottom of it.]

Bry: Yeah. That's up west of the Bingham Hill?

[Yeah.]

Bry: Did you see those people down there, Gene? Look. Look down. All right, everybody imagine this. Anyhow, this strip of asphalt runs thirteen miles to the Green River. Some places now we know it's three hundred feet thick. Billions of tons of ore, in there. All right, now look down here. Can you see down here? Can you see this turn in the river? Down here in this big horseshoe? I know this man can, 'cause he's been there. It goes around thirteen miles, then comes right back and almost touches itself. That whole area is gold land. I can take you down there right now, we can pan, we can pan that gold, and make: wages. Democratic wages. It's worth trying, now, Bishop, the price of gold. Do you know what the price of gold is today?

[About a hundred.]

Bry: A hundred-ninety dollars. Plus thirty-five. So, if we get up against it, we'll go down and pan gold. All right. You can see that bend in the river, now we're going on over to Charlie's bentonite, plots. He's got two thousand acres of bentonite there. And then there's the laterite, and we can go on to the Gilsonite, the only Gilsonite mines in the world, productive Gilsonite mines. My wife and I went to Trinidad where there is some Gilsonite, another spot in the world, but it's nothing as pure as ours. All right. Now we're passing the Gilsonite mines. And they had a tube, it's a pipe that run clear over to the Grand Junction area, you know, it worked night and day. That's slurry, they call it. They ground it up into a powder and made a slurry, and it ran night and day. You stand there and it's just piled there.

All right. How many things is that I've told you about? Then you go on a little bit farther, and you can go on to the Great Mountains and oil shale, which will be there when we're all gone and for many generations, for the whole world and this nation in particular, unless someone, must not let the Arabs have it, by the way, including ourselves. And then, we'll now circle back, and remember, we're going over one of the greatest resources known to man – the Range itself. The only resource we know of out there that will reproduce itself as long as the rain falls and the sun shines. If we treat it right, it'll always be there for us.

You know the sheep men, some time, in particular the sheep men, almost ruined that thing. Just darned near ruined it to where it wouldn't come back. Then we asked Uncle Sam. We went to Washington, D.C., told Uncle Sam, "Come and regulate it." We were destroying a great resource, and it's coming back wonderfully well. So there's one of your greatest resources that's on earth today. Much more valuable than oil shale, Gilsonite, and asphalt.

All right, we're coming on around, how are you getting along? Anybody seasick? Plane sick? Roy? All right, all right. On the way back, we forgot to visit the Red Wash oil fields, so we'll mention that as we come back home. There's an oil field thirty miles long and ten miles wide and I don't know how many wells, do you, Charlie? How many wells are there on that ground?

[Digging more every day.]

Bry: All right.

[Charlie, pass that on around.]

Bry: Can you wait till I get through?

[Yes.]

Bry: Okay, I'm about through, too. So, it'll be all right.

All right, now we're coming back, and we're crossing this great... I said as I was telling you about the Range, you know, and now, across the oil field, and now, the Green River, which is a great asset. We're going up that canyon, Split Mountain Canyon. There's a great dam site, there. The Green River, along up through Flaming Gorge, and there's another dam site, and we're going up through the park, up on to Flaming Gorge. And while we're there, we'll see some

sights. But we'll turn here and go over Diamond Mountain. One of the great areas there, we call that the maternity room, because that's where the lambs were born. Beautiful area. Well watered. Ralph owns part of it. ? something I've never seen in my life. It'll come back and take all kinds of punishment, and come right back. So it's a great area.

Then, we go from there, and see all that black stuff. Do you see all those black things, that black, right there?

[Yes, I do.]

Bry: Well, that's timber. The biggest forest in the state of Utah. Millions of board feet of timber, ready for the woodsman's ax. You know, down there, under there, can you see that digging there and that smoke or dust coming up? Phosphate mine. Three mountains of phosphate. I'm telling you about this, are you listening? All right. That's a great area, isn't it? Then we'll turn around, and come up to near the valley, and look down, and see a beautiful spring gushing out of the sand block, enough for fifty thousand people, water that doesn't have to be purified, it's already pure, which is rare. We get to spend ninety million dollars in Jordan there, to purify our water there, in a plant. We don't have to spend anything like that here. Put a little chlorine in when it's muddy in the spring. We've got a spring there that's really unusual.

All right. We're just about through with the trip, except now that we're crossing Rock Point Canyon, all this Indian lore and beautiful streams coming down, and now, we haven't mentioned the greatest resource of all. That's those great pioneers that came here and developed this land. The people who are living here now, sturdy, hard-working, great people. So that's the airplane trip. Now you may get out, and be careful. Don't fall when you get out, it's slick. All right.

Now, let me tell you why you all have worked so hard to develop this: to keep your children here. You know, not very many of them here are very old, though. The reason we work hard to develop this country is to keep our children here and give them jobs rather than send them off into another area. How fortunate we should be. Do you know you live in the most wonderful area? Of course, you do. If it was ever known to mankind, yes, of course.

Do you agree with what the scientists tell you, where they're going off in space, do you believe what they tell you? Of course, you do because they told you what the moon was before they ever went there. It's a dead planet, it's dusty, no air, no water. When we got there, that's exactly it. Now I'm going to Jupiter. Not yet, but when I die, I'm going to Jupiter, because it's ten thousand times bigger than the world, and there'll be plenty of room there to run sheep and everything else. It only takes three years to get there, at thirty-seven thousand miles an hour. It only takes three years to get there. And it'd be a good ride.

[That's what we'll do in Heaven.]

Bry: We might at that. Well, anyhow, it's a great world. And this mission, eleven they sent out, this lady was a ? who took pictures of it, and you know, every minute right where it is, every minute up there, a billion miles, millions of miles, up in space, after it passes Jupiter, then it goes to Saturn, takes pictures of Saturn, and then it's going on into space, for eleven million years, before it completes its mission. That's what they tell us. I've got to believe them because they told me about the moon. What do you mean, Sylvia, you say you'll never make it?

[I doubt it.]

Bry: Well, I know it's going to quiet down.

[I see what you mean, because I've got the original deed to my father's place in 1884, when our grandfather brought a sawmill from Heber City and set it up in 1878, I mean 1887...]

[It was '78.]

['78. And he also had to give up his homestead to the government, and moved his sawmill up on what's now known as Pat Carroll's mill site, up on the mountain. He had to give up his place, so he came out and my father filed on that place where I'm living now, in 1884, and they moved him out, and my granddad built a house, there on where I'm living, and I've got the original deed to that place.]

Bry: Who was it recorded that here?

[Down in the courthouse, it's right in book number one, about the first claim that was filed on.]

Bry: What is?

[The Pat Carroll homestead. Up there where your father's is, right along the side of it. There's where Carlos Green—after they'd began with Green's, Sanford Green that built the pond there—well, that was on Granddad's place.]

Bry: That pond's still there.

[And my uncle Rod filed on ?. That Harley Christensen lives right there.]

[Elmer Gardner owns the ?, most of the land that Granddad filed on first.]

Bry: Now he owns another...

[He sold it. Part of the hundred and sixty, Elmer did, but most of it's there yet.]

Bry: Now let me end with a little sentimentality, because I believe that old folks should take part in anything that helps development. I don't think they should shunt us off at sixty-five and I'm overdoing it instead of saying several conditions at eighty-five. We need to let the young men in, and I believe in letting young men in, but I don't believe in putting us all who are older on the shelf. I think if you follow the advice of this little quotation, one of our great scientists says, "The greatest inspiration that ever came to me, in my long life, was an old servant I had who would come to my door each morning and knock, and say, 'Master, it's about seven o'clock. Arise. You have great work to do yet.'" And so, let me tell you, all of you, you have great work to do yet. Thank you.

[Applause]

[I think now it would be a good thing for people to ask Bry certain questions or just visit around like we usually do, in a discussion, and all visit among yourselves, but one at a time, and let's have a good discussion. If there's any topic that you want to ask him about, let's go ahead and do it.]

[I'd like to make one statement. I remember eating honey on my bread and milk up at Bry Stringham's place when I was about six or seven years old.]

By: The first bees that came to this country; Father brought them.

[Yep. We used to go up there and play with Dylan and Ray, and Bry was a big boy then.]

Bry: Yeah. Did you ever eat grapes up there? Out of our vineyard?

[There was another thing that Mr. Stringham has helped me decide, or one thing that I was worried about, and that was where the Snyders came from. There's several histories about the Snyders, but it doesn't say anything in those about where they came from. And I found in a history of the Johnstuns where they came from Snyderville, and Robert, it said Robert was at the sawmill when Jess Johnstun got killed. Then after that, why, he brought his cattle down here to Ashley Valley, in a year before they moved down here. That's what some of the clippings from the *Vernal Express* say. But, it has been that I really couldn't find where. Then in the *Builders of Uintah* it says Mr. Snyder came to the Basin with cattle about a year before he moved his family in. They settled on Ashley Creek, on the place where David Timothy lived.]

Bry: Right. This *Uintah Builders* has it where he brought his family, and then went back again.

[Well, this is from the *Builders of Uintah*, and it says, "Came to the basin with cattle, about a year before he moved his family in. They settled on Ashley Creek, in the place where David Timothy lived."]

Bry: That's great, but I was wrong. The book does say that; I had it reversed. That says he brought his cattle in first, then his family.

[And then there's another one that I'd like to know if anybody knew, was right where the first schoolhouse was built. In Cora VanGundy's history it said that it was built on T. Taylor's place. But I can't find where T. Taylor built, where he made his claim. He made a claim and came here, but it doesn't say whereabouts he took his claim out. But in several of the places in the *Builders of Uintah*, it says that it was near Nathan Davis's place was where the schoolhouse was put. And Peter Dillman, when he moved uptown, it seemed like this old schoolhouse belonged to Peter, somehow, on his land or something, and he moved it up to Vernal later, when his wife had a millinery store up there, and he built a lean-to on the house. I think he had a drugstore up there, in town, and then he added it to his building up there and she had a millinery store in the old school-house that was built first.]

Bry: You don't know where that was? Was it recorded in this book?

[Well, it says it was by Nathan Davis's field. Now, it doesn't say whose land it was on, but Cora VanGundy said it was on T. Taylor's land. I was just wondering if anybody knew about that, and could tell us.]

Bry: Charlie would be the only one that would know T. Taylor. Do you know where T. Taylor's place was, Charlie?

[I don't know any of this.]

[I'd like to say one more about that - in '79, in the Hard Winter, two of my uncles died and are buried up here in the Rock Point Cemetery. The year before that, two years before that, my brother came with that bunch of cattle that you told about, with Hanchett and Murdock, and they drove them down to the Green River, and thought he could ride through. Gosh, he was only thirteen years old. He was riding through the brush and tore his pants off, and they had to wait three weeks. He had to ride with a blanket on him until his mother could make him another pair of pants.]

[My mother thought she was the first girl born up in Dry Fork, but there was somebody else, it was Annie Elizabeth.]

[It was Annie Dudley.]

[Annie Dudley, yes. How's that for history?]

Bry: First woman born in...

[She was our first cousin.]

[My mother was born in Dry Fork, and for years we thought that she was the oldest female born up there. But Chellus told us that there was somebody born up there just before she was.]

Bry: She didn't get all those presents then, diapers and so on?

[No, there wasn't any presents.]

[If you came from Dry Fork, didn't T. Taylor live up in Dry Fork?]

[Well, I don't know. My mother was from there.]

Bry: Alma, where did T. Taylor live?

[T. Taylor? Teancum?]

[There was a Taylor place, but I don't know if it was T. Taylor's or not.]

[I'm not too sure about where Taylor lived, but I had the idea he was over on Joe Haslem's place, over there.]

Bry: That's my opinion, but I don't know. How near is that to Nathan Davis's? Do you know?

[Well, let's see. The west boundary on that place is about a mile, just about a mile.]

Bry: Does that answer your question?

[I think it's Alma Taylor's place that he was thinking about, because that was right in there by the Nathan Davis place. But we never were able to find out, possibly we could find out from the court house. But we were never able to find out where T. Taylor's place was.]

[I just want to ask a question: was this Alma Seeley's place?]

[Or was that T. Taylor's place down on the Seeley place first? That place where Seeley lived?]

Bry: You know where Seeley's place is? All of you? She asked a question: was that down on the Seeley place?

[No, I don't know, way back of the Seeley place, back where MacKnight's, you know, then, I don't know what the old Seeley place – homestead – was.]

Bry: Now, here's a feller right here, who says I'm going to come and hear you talk, today, and I'm going to bring some tomatoes. Did you bring the tomatoes? We have the tomatoes outside, and we'll use them if we have to. Well, this is highly interesting. Isn't there something else some of you people can give us? Harold, you know a lot of good stuff. At least part of it's true.

[My mother came from Heber when she was just quite a young girl. With the Dodds family. Then she met my Dad out here. He got a job with a man from Salt Lake that had a herd of sheep. He came out and herded the sheep and met my mother here, and in 1893 they went to Manti and were married in the temple there. Nine months and three days later I was born. They were married on the first day of November, and I was born on the ?]

Bry: That's a good story.

[In Blue Woodard's history, most of you know Blue Woodard, he took the mail from here to Rangely. Later, he said he didn't realize how bad those roads were. He'd leave at dark and get there at dark. There were several places along the way that he could change horses. He was on that route for about four years.]

Bry: Well, this is highly interesting. Why don't you go on with it? May I pass this around? Pardon me. May I pass this around, quickly? My father was the first auditor elected. Not the first auditor, because some are appointed. But he was the first auditor elected. My mother was an excellent penman, and they had no typewriters at that time, and she took down all the records. Here's a sample of her writing. What she did. Pass it around, if you would. Now, that's very

interesting. Charlie, give us something. Can't you give us something? You've got to stay in the '70s though.

[No, we said you could slip over into the eighties if you want.]

[My father came in 1882. He was single, and he married my mother in 1888. Herman was born in 1890. I was born in 1900.]

B: You're just a kid.

[Yeah, I'm just a kid.]

Bry: I was just wondering, I notice this deed has a homestead on it. Was the homestead clause in effect when this valley was settled? How many acres did you have to farm? 160 ?

[160 acres.]

Bry: The first homestead law was passed in 1862, then they filed on the land. Was there any fee they paid to the government, for the land?

[There must have been a fee paid, because when they took Grandpa's land from him to make Fort Thornburgh, they gave him money enough to move his sawmill up on the mountain. So I don't know how much, what the fee was.]

Bry: When was the declaration revised, to take Fort Thornburgh out of the Reservation?

[The Reservation was opened up to homesteading, I think, about 1910.]

Bry: 1905.

[But those filings were way back in 1884, because I've got a deed for it, in 1884.]

Bry: And this one says 1882, doesn't it, when they first passed the Homestead Act?

[Pause]

Bry: May I come back for just a minute, there's a thing I forgot that's highly interesting. The punishment of those Uncompahgres and Utes up in the Meeker massacre, the Uncompahgres had nothing to do with it, the Uncompahgre tribe. But the Utes did. But they punished the Uncompahgres as well, and they took away, all over the western slope of the Rockies, this whole area, many thousands of sections, away from them, and said, "You come down to Ouray, and brought them down to Ouray." The Uncompahgres and the White Rock Utes and the Uintah Utes were there at the time. That was a terrible punishment. We have been awful mean to the Indians. And they have retaliated.

END OF TAPE.